

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising first and second oligomeric compounds wherein:

~~at least 18 nucleosides of the first oligomeric compound are~~ is complementary to and capable of hybridizing ~~with~~ to the second oligomeric compound;

~~at least a portion of the first oligomeric compound is complementary to and capable of hybridizing to a target nucleic acid;~~

~~one of the first and the second oligomeric compounds~~ compound comprises at least one 2'-fluoro sugar modified nucleoside ~~having enhanced affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target relative to an unmodified β -D-ribonucleoside;~~ and

~~the other of the first and the second oligomeric compounds~~ compound comprises at least one ~~base modified nucleoside having enhanced decreased affinity for the complementary nucleoside in the composition or between the first oligomeric compound and a nucleic acid target relative to an unmodified β -D-ribonucleoside~~ nucleoside comprising an inosine base; at least one of the nucleosides comprising an inosine base is the 3'-terminal hybridizing nucleoside of the second oligomeric compound; and the 5'-terminal hybridizing nucleoside of the second oligomeric compound comprises a guanine or cytosine base.

2-37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises from about 12 to about 30 nucleosides.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second oligomeric compounds comprises from about 19 to about 23 nucleosides.

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41-57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) The composition of ~~claim 57~~ claim 1 wherein ~~one of the first and the second oligomeric compounds~~ compound comprises a continuous sequence of 2'-F modified nucleosides.

59-60. (canceled)